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ANNUAL REPORT

ON

INDENTURED INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

IN

THE COLONY OF GRENADA

FOR

1890.

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1891

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THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,

&c., &c., &c.

IMMIGRATION OFFICE, GRENADA,

27th October, 1891.

SIR,

In compliance with your instructions, I have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1890.

2. The last published statistics of this Department having been brought down to the 13th January 1890, on which date the indentures of the Immigrants who arrived in the "Poonah," in the month of January 1885, expired, I have nothing to report with regard to Indentured Immigrants and I must therefore confine my observations to those who are working out their term of industrial service.

3 On the termination of their indentures certificates of exemption from labour were issued to the East Indian Immigrants per "Poonah" for whom Bounty, or return passages to India, will have to be provided early in the year 1895. I roughly estimate the amount which will be required for these services at about £1,600. 0. 0. The balance sheet of the Immigration Fund at 31st December 1890, annexed hereto, shows that an ample amount will be available for these purposes.

4. The expenditure of the Immigration Department has been reduced to a very small amount, provision having been made for the late Protector by his appointment to an office in the neighbouring Island of St Lucia, the position held by him has not been filled, and the Department was placed in my charge as Keeper of its records with a nominal salary. Another saving was also effected by the abolition of the appointments of Interpreters. Hitherto there had been two Interpreters with salaries of £60 and £30 respectively. The services of these officers were dispensed with and arrangements were made by which when an Interpreter is required one or other of the two should be employed and he should be remunerated by the payment of a fee for each case in which he is engaged. One of these men has been appointed a Road Overseer, and the other is the Dispenser at the St. Andrew's District Hospital. If, therefore, the same rate of expenditure be kept up, the annual interest on the balance of the loan to the St. George's Parochial Board viz: £1,430. 19. 3 will almost suffice to maintain the working of the office on its present footing. In these circumstances it was unnecessary to collect the export duty on produce shipped, and "The Export Duties Suspending Ordinance 1890" was accordingly passed which authorised the Treasurer to discontinue the collection of those duties in the year 1890.

5. The East Indians in the Colony who are now completing their term of industrial service readily found re-employment, most of them on the estates to which they had been indentured. No complaint has reached me of any of them having been unable to obtain work, although shortly after my appointment I found that many of them wished to leave the Colony, led away by the idea that better wages could be earned elsewhere, on explaining to them that they would forfeit their right to bounty, or a return passage to India, they decided to remain in the Island. I may here state that I have issued only two passports during the eleven months from February to December. The facility with which work may be obtained by any industrious labourer in Grenada is evidenced by the fact that many East Indians who have completed their term of service in neighbouring colonies, especially in St. Vincent, came here in search of employment which they easily found. The average wage earned per day is:—

By Men	1/-
" Women	9d.
" Children	3d. to 6d.

6. The condition of the Immigrants was fairly comfortable, the cost of living being extremely small, ground provisions on which they chiefly live having been plentifu

and cheap: the following were the ordinary prices of the principal articles which compose their dietary:—

Rice, brown	2d. per lb.
do. white	2½d. " "
Vegetables	1d. " "
Plantains	1/6 " bunch
Olive Oil	9d. " bottle
Butter—Common	1/- " lb
Sugar	4d. " "
Fish—Salt	4d. " "
" Fresh	5d. " "
" "Jacks"—a small fish which abound around the coast were very cheap, a large dish of them might have been purchased for a couple of pence	
Poultry	6d. per lb
Beef	6d. " "
Mutton	8d. " "
Pork	6d. " "

The last four, however, are but seldom indulged in by the Immigrants.

7. Many of the Immigrants have been able to save comparatively large sums of money and have utilised the Government Savings Bank, which allows interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum, for the safe custody of their savings. The largest amount at the credit of any of the "Poonah" Immigrants was £42. 11. 6., while another has lodged £40. 18. 0. Many have smaller sums at their credit, the aggregate being £299. 11. 11. Of other time expired Immigrants the largest depositor had £69. 10. 6 standing at his credit, while a second had £43. 18. 7. The gross amount deposited by all East Indian Immigrants being £534.

8. The health of the Colony was good throughout the year, there were no epidemics and the death rate was only 25.31 per thousand, no death occurred amongst the Immigrants per "Poonah."

9. I am pleased to be able to state that no murder was committed during the year by any of the Immigrants in Grenada, whose conduct has, as a rule, been good. Annexed is a statement showing the offences for which East Indians were convicted during the year, the first on the list was committed by a coolie who had been in prison previously, and who had thus protracted his period of indenture.

10. There has been no application for Immigrants received.

11. I regret that this Report should be of so late a date, as there were no Indentured Immigrants in the Colony I did not think that I should be required to prepare one until I received your communication of the 17th instant, asking for it.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. COLLYMORE,

Acting Protector of Immigrants.

Balance Sheet of the Immigration Fund at 31st December 1890.

Dr.

1890. Dec. 31	Treasury Deposit Account ..	£1,963 11 6	
	Emigration Agent, Calcutta ..	37 16 7	
	Loan to St. George's Parochial Board	1,430 19 3	
	Interest on do. do. do. (Arrears account)	96 15 9	
			£3,529 3 1
			£3,529 3 1

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1890. Dec. 31	Arrears of Revenue Account ..	£96 15 9	
	Surplus and Deficit Account ..	3,432 7 4	
			£3,529 3 1
			£3,529 3 1

STATEMENT of offences committed by East Indian Immigrants during the year 1890.

Offence.	By whom convicted.	Sentence.	Remarks.
Breach of Indenture	Police Magistrate W. District	2 months Hard Labour	Immigrant per "Poonah"
Stealing a Cow	Supreme Court	4 years do.	
Stealing do.	do.	4 years do.	
Malicious Damage to property ..	Police Magistrate S. District	2 months do.	
Stealing Cocoa	" " W. District	3 weeks do.	
Threatening language	" " " "	2 " do.	Immigrant per "Poonah"
Obscene language	" " " "	2 months do.	
Receiving Stolen property	Supreme Court	2 years do.	Immigrant per "Poonah"
Burglary	" "	2 years do.	do do.